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COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
Twelfth session
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Agenda item 13

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS TWELFTH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Ioan BARAC (Romania)

Chapter VIII

DISASTER PREVENTION AND MITIGATION IN DEVELOPING AND UTILIZING NATURAL RESOURCES (Item 9)

1. The Committee considered item 9 of its agenda at its 5th and 7th meetings on 28 March and 2 April 1991. It had before it a report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations system concerning disaster prevention and mitigation in developing and utilizing natural resources (E/C.7/1991/11). The report was introduced to the Committee by the representative of the Interorganizational Cooperation Section of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs.

2. The representatives of two member States and two organizations of the United Nations system took part in the discussion of the report. One delegation stated that the activities in the area of disaster prevention and mitigation had been incorporated in the five-year plan of economic and social development of its country, as well as in the programme of action of the Geological Society for the 1990s. It described some of the projects under implementation, the cooperation of its Government with neighbouring countries and the global and regional organizations which, in its view, should improve their activities in coping with the problems under consideration.

3. Another delegation stressed that the report was useful and could serve as the basis for the future study of the problem and for widening the relevant activities of the United Nations system and Governments. It expressed concern that the report did not cover the activities of certain organizations of the system - in particular, the Economic Commission for Europe, which was very active in liquidating the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

4. The representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific described the activities of the Commission in disaster prevention and mitigation, which were carried out mainly under the guidelines of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. They included, inter alia, seminars, missions to separate countries, mapping, projects in land use, and water and forest development.

5. The representative of the World Meteorological Organization provided updated information regarding activities of the organization related to natural disaster prevention and mitigation and, in particular, on the three projects prepared as contribution to the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. It was mentioned that the Steering Committee of the Decade during its first session (Bonn, March 1991) had endorsed the projects. It was expected that countries would contribute to the implementation of the projects, in close collaboration with relevant organizations of the United Nations system.